



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
17 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333

DEPARTMENT ORDER

IN THE MATTER OF

TOWN OF NORRIDGEWOCK)	MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE
NORRIDGEWOCK, SOMERSET COUNTY)	ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT
PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS)	AND
ME0102334)	WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE
W007742-6C-I-R)	RENEWAL
APPROVAL		

In compliance with the applicable provisions of *Pollution Control*, 38 M.R.S. §§ 411 – 424-B, *Water Classification Program*, 38 M.R.S. §§ 464 – 470 and *Federal Water Pollution Control*; Title 33 U.S.C. § 1251, and applicable rules of the Department of Environmental Protection (Department hereinafter), the Department has considered the application of the TOWN OF NORRIDGEWOCK (Town/permittee hereinafter), with its supportive data, agency review comments, and other related materials on file, and FINDS THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

APPLICATION SUMMARY

On September 20, 2019, the Department accepted as complete for processing, a renewal application for Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) permit #ME0102334 / Maine Waste Discharge License (WDL) #W007742-6C-H-R, which was issued by the Department on December 9, 2014 for a five-year term. The 12/09/14 MEPDES permit authorized the permittee to discharge a monthly average flow of 0.193 million gallons per day (MGD) of secondary treated municipal wastewater from a publicly owned treatment works (POTW) to the Kennebec River, Class B, in Norridgewock, Maine.

PERMIT SUMMARY

This permitting action is carrying forward all the terms and conditions of the previous permit except that it

1. Amends Ecoli monitoring dates from May 15 through September 30 of each year of the permit to April 15 through October 31 for each year of the permit.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings summarized in the attached Fact Sheet dated November 18, 2022 and subject to the special and standard conditions that follow, the Department makes the following CONCLUSIONS:

1. The discharge, either by itself or in combination with other discharges, will not lower the quality of any classified body of water below such classification.
2. The discharge, either by itself or in combination with other discharges, will not lower the quality of any unclassified body of water below the classification which the Department expects to adopt in accordance with state law.
3. The provisions of the State's antidegradation policy, *Classification of Maine waters*, 38 M.R.S. § 464(4)(F), will be met, in that:
 - (a) Existing in-stream water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect and maintain those existing uses will be maintained and protected.
 - (b) Where high quality waters of the State constitute an outstanding natural resource, that water quality will be maintained and protected.
 - (c) Where the standards of classification of the receiving water body are not met, the discharge will not cause or contribute to the failure of the water body to meet the standards of classification.
 - (d) Where the actual quality of any classified receiving water body exceeds the minimum standards of the next highest classification that higher water quality will be maintained and protected; and
 - (e) Where a discharge will result in lowering the existing water quality of any water body, the Department has made the finding, following opportunity for public participation, that this action is necessary to achieve important economic or social benefits to the State.
4. The discharge will be subject to effluent limitations that require application of best practicable treatment as defined in *Conditions of licenses* 38 M.R.S. § 414-A(1)(D).

ACTION

Based on the findings and conclusions as state above, the Department APPROVES the above noted application of the TOWN OF NORRIDGEWOCK to discharge a monthly average flow of 0.193 MGD of secondary treated municipal wastewater from Outfall #001 to the Kennebec River, Class B, in Norridgewock, Maine, SUBJECT TO THE ATTACHED CONDITIONS, and all applicable standards and regulations including:

1. *Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Standard Conditions Applicable To All Permits*, revised July 1, 2002, copy attached.
2. The attached Special Conditions, including any effluent limitations and monitoring requirements.
3. This permit and the authorization to discharge become effective upon the date of signature below and expire at midnight five (5) years from the effective date. If a renewal application is timely submitted and accepted as complete for processing prior to the expiration of this permit, the authorization to discharge and the terms and conditions of this permit and all modifications and minor revisions thereto remain in effect until a final Department decision on the renewal application becomes effective. [*Maine Administrative Procedure Act*, 5 M.R.S. § 10002 and *Rules Concerning the Processing of Applications and Other Administrative Matters*, 06-096 CMR 2(21)(A) (last amended June 9, 2018)].

PLEASE NOTE ATTACHED SHEET FOR GUIDANCE ON APPEAL PROCEDURES

DONE AND DATED AT AUGUSTA, MAINE, THIS 18 DAY OF November 2022.
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

BY:



for Melanie Loyzim, Commissioner

Date of initial receipt of application: September 19, 2019

Date of application acceptance: September 20, 2019

Date filed with Board of Environmental Protection

Filed

NOV 18, 2022

**State of Maine
Board of Environmental Protection**

This Order prepared by Rod Robert, Bureau of Water Quality

SPECIAL CONDITIONS**A. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

1. The permittee is authorized to discharge **secondary treated municipal wastewater from Outfall #001A** to the Kennebec River at Norridgewock. Such discharges are limited and must be monitored by the permittee as specified below⁽¹⁾:

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations						Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>Weekly Average</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u>	<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>Weekly Average</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u>	<u>Measurement Frequency</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>
Flow <i>[50050]</i>	0.193 MGD <i>[03]</i>	---	Report MGD	---	---	---	Continuous <i>[99/99]</i>	Recorder <i>[RC]</i>
BOD ₅ <i>[00310]</i>	48 lbs./day <i>[26]</i>	72 lbs./day <i>[26]</i>	81 lbs./day <i>[26]</i>	30 mg/L <i>[19]</i>	45 mg/L <i>[19]</i>	50 mg/L <i>[19]</i>	2/Month ⁽⁷⁾ <i>[02/30]</i>	Composite <i>[24]</i>
BOD ₅ Percent Removal ⁽²⁾ <i>[81010]</i>	---	---	---	85 % <i>[23]</i>	---	---	1/Month <i>[01/30]</i>	Calculate <i>[CA]</i>
TSS <i>[00530]</i>	48 lbs./day <i>[26]</i>	72 lbs./day <i>[26]</i>	81 lbs./day <i>[26]</i>	30 mg/L <i>[19]</i>	45 mg/L <i>[19]</i>	50 mg/L <i>[19]</i>	2/Month ⁽⁷⁾ <i>[02/30]</i>	Composite <i>[24]</i>
TSS Percent Removal ⁽²⁾ <i>[81011]</i>	---	---	---	85 % <i>[23]</i>	---	---	1/Month <i>[01/30]</i>	Calculate <i>[CA]</i>
Settleable Solids <i>[00545]</i>	---	---	---	---	---	0.3 mL/L <i>[25]</i>	3/Week <i>[03/07]</i>	Grab <i>[GR]</i>
<i>E. coli</i> Bacteria ⁽³⁾ <i>[31633]</i> (April 15 – October 31)	---	---	---	64/100 mL ⁽⁴⁾ <i>[13]</i>	---	236/100 mL ⁽⁴⁾ <i>[13]</i>	2/Month ⁽⁷⁾ <i>[02/30]</i>	Grab <i>[GR]</i>
TRC ⁽⁵⁾ <i>[50060]</i>	---	---	---	---	---	1.0 mg/L <i>[19]</i>	5/Week <i>[05/07]</i>	Grab <i>[GR]</i>
pH (Standard Units) <i>[00400]</i>	---	---	---	---	---	6.0-9.0 SU <i>[12]</i>	3/Week <i>[03/07]</i>	Grab <i>[GR]</i>
Mercury ⁽⁶⁾ <i>[71900]</i>	---	---	---	4.5 ng/L	---	6.8 ng/L	1/Year <i>[01/YR]</i>	Grab <i>[GR]</i>

All italicized numeric values bracketed in the tables are code numbers that Department personnel utilize to code the monthly Discharge Monitoring Reports.

Footnote details begin on page 5

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

A. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS (cont'd)

FOOTNOTES

Sampling Locations – Influent sampling for BOD₅ and TSS must be sampled after the grit channel. For the purposes of this permitting action, BOD₅ and TSS samples taken at this location will serve as the influent values for calculating percent removals for secondary treated wastewater. Effluent receiving secondary treatment (Outfall #001) must be sampled after the chlorine contact chamber. Any change in sampling location must be reviewed and approved by the Department in writing.

1. **Sampling** – All effluent monitoring must be conducted at a location following the last treatment unit in the treatment process as to be representative of end-of-pipe effluent characteristics. Sampling and analysis must be conducted in accordance with; a) methods approved by 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 136, b) alternative methods approved by the Department in accordance with the procedures in 40 CFR Part 136, or c) as otherwise specified by the Department. Samples that are sent out for analysis must be analyzed by a laboratory certified by the State of Maine's Department of Health and Human Services for wastewater testing. Samples that are sent to another POTW licensed pursuant to Waste discharge licenses, 38 M.R.S. § 413 or laboratory facilities that analyze compliance samples in-house are subject to the provisions and restrictions of *Maine Comprehensive and Limited Environmental Laboratory Certification Rules*, 10-144 CMR 263 (last amended December 19, 2018). If the permittee monitors any pollutant more frequently than required by the permit using test procedures approved under 40 CFR part 136 or as specified in this permit, the results of this monitoring must be included in the calculation and reporting of the data submitted in the Discharge Monitoring Report.
2. **Percent Removal** - The permittee must achieve a minimum of 85 percent removal of both total suspended solids and biochemical oxygen demand for all flows receiving secondary treatment. The percent removal is calculated based on influent and effluent concentration values.
3. **Bacteria Limits** – *E. coli* bacteria limits and monitoring requirements are seasonal and apply between April 15 to October 31 of each year. The Department reserves the right to require year-round bacteria limits to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.
4. **Bacteria Reporting** – The monthly average *E. coli* bacteria limitation is a **geometric mean** limitation and sample results must be reported as such.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

A. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS (cont'd)

FOOTNOTES

5. **TRC Monitoring** – Limitations and monitoring requirements are in effect any time elemental chlorine or chlorine-based compounds are utilized to disinfect the discharge(s). The permittee must utilize a USEPA-approved test method capable of bracketing the TRC limitations specified in this permitting action. Monitoring for TRC is only required when elemental chlorine or chlorine-based compounds are in use for effluent disinfection. For instances when a facility has not disinfected with chlorine-based compounds for an entire reporting period, the facility must report “NODI-9” for this parameter on the monthly DMR or “N9” if the submittal is an electronic DMR.
6. **Mercury** – The permittee must conduct all mercury sampling required by this permit or required to determine compliance with interim limitations established pursuant to 06-096 CMR 519 in accordance with the USEPA’s “clean sampling techniques” found in USEPA Method 1669, *Sampling Ambient Water For Trace Metals At EPA Water Quality Criteria Levels*. All mercury analysis must be conducted in accordance with USEPA Method 1631, *Determination of Mercury in Water by Oxidation, Purge and Trap, and Cold Vapor Fluorescence Spectrometry*. Compliance with the monthly average limitation established in Special Condition A.1 of this permit will be based on the cumulative arithmetic mean of all mercury tests results that were conducted utilizing sampling Methods 1669 and analysis Method 1631E on file with the Department for this facility.
7. **2/Month sampling** – There must be at least 10 days between sampling events.

B. NARRATIVE EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

1. The permittee must not discharge effluent that contains a visible oil sheen, foam or floating solids at any time which would impair the uses designated for the classification of the receiving waters.
2. The permittee must not discharge effluent that contains materials in concentrations or combinations which are hazardous or toxic to aquatic life, or which would impair the uses designated for the classification of the receiving waters.
3. The permittee must not discharge effluent that causes visible discoloration or turbidity in the receiving waters so that it causes those waters to be unsuitable for the designated uses and characteristics ascribed to their class.
4. The permittee must not discharge effluent that lowers the quality of any classified body of water below such classification or lowers the existing quality of any body of water if the existing quality is higher than the classification.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

C. TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR

The treatment facility must be operated by a person holding a minimum of a **Grade II** certificate or higher, (or Registered Maine Professional Engineer), pursuant to *Sewage Treatment Operators*, 32 M.R.S. §§ 4171-4182 and *Regulations for Wastewater Operator Certification*, 06-096 CMR 531 (effective May 8, 2006). All proposed contracts for facility operation by any person must be approved by the Department before the permittee may engage the services of the contract operator.

D. AUTHORIZED DISCHARGES

The permittee is authorized to discharge only in accordance with 1) the permittee's General Application for Waste Discharge Permit, accepted for processing on September 20, 2019; 2) the terms and conditions of this permit; and 3) only from Outfall #001. Discharges of wastewater from any other point source(s) are not authorized under this permit and must be reported in accordance with Standard Condition D *Twenty-four-hour reporting*, of this permit.

E. LIMITATIONS FOR INDUSTRIAL USERS

Pollutants introduced into the wastewater collection and treatment system by a non-domestic source (user) must not pass through or interfere with the operation of the treatment system. The permittee must conduct an Industrial Waste Survey (IWS) any time a new industrial user proposes to discharge within its jurisdiction; an existing user proposes to make a significant change in its discharge; or at an alternative minimum, once every permit cycle and submit the results to the Department. The IWS must identify, in terms of character and volume of pollutants, any Significant Industrial Users discharging into the POTW subject to Pretreatment Standards under section 307(b) of the federal Clean Water Act, 40 CFR Part 403 (general pretreatment regulations) or *Pretreatment Program*, 06-096 CMR 528 (last amended March 17, 2008).

F. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

In accordance with Standard Condition D, the permittee must notify the Department of the following:

1. Any introduction of pollutants into the wastewater collection and treatment system from an indirect discharger in a primary industrial category discharging process wastewater; and
2. Any substantial change in the volume or character of pollutants being introduced into the wastewater collection and treatment system by a source introducing pollutants into the system at the time of permit issuance. For the purposes of this section, notice regarding substantial change must include information on:
 - (a) the quality and quantity of wastewater introduced to the wastewater collection and treatment system; and
 - (b) any anticipated impact caused by the change in the quantity or quality of the wastewater to be discharged from the treatment system.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

G. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE (O&M) PLAN

The permittee must maintain a current written comprehensive Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Plan for the facility. The plan must provide a systematic approach by which the permittee must at all times, properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) which are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the conditions of this permit.

By December 31 of each year, or within 90 days of any process changes or minor equipment upgrades, the permittee must evaluate and modify the O&M Plan including site plan(s) and schematic(s) for the wastewater treatment facility to ensure that it is current. The O&M Plan must always be kept on-site and made available to Department and USEPA personnel upon request.

Within 90 days of completion of new and or substantial upgrades of the wastewater treatment facility, the permittee must submit the updated O&M Plan to their Department inspector for review and comment.

H. WET WEATHER MANAGEMENT PLAN

The permittee must maintain an approved Wet Weather Management Plan to direct the staff on how to operate the facility effectively during periods of high flow. The Department acknowledges that the existing collection system may deliver flows in excess of the monthly average design capacity of the treatment plant during periods of high infiltration and rainfall. A specific objective of the plan must be to maximize the volume of wastewater receiving secondary treatment under all operating conditions. The revised plan must include operating procedures for a range of intensities, address solids handling procedures (including septic waste and other high strength wastes if applicable) and provide written operating and maintenance procedures during the events.

The permittee must review their plan at least annually and record any necessary changes to keep the plan up to date. The Department may require review and update of the plan as it is determined to be necessary.

I. DISPOSAL OF TRANSPORTED WASTES IN WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

Pursuant to this permit and *Standards for the Addition of Transported Wastes to Wastewater Treatment Facilities*, 06-096 CMR 555 (effective March 9, 2009), during the effective period of this permit, the permittee is authorized to receive into the treatment process or solids handling stream up to **a daily maximum of 2,000 gallons per day (gpd)** of transported wastes, subject to the following terms and conditions.

1. "Transported wastes" means any liquid non-hazardous waste delivered to a wastewater treatment facility by a truck or other similar conveyance that has different chemical constituents or a greater strength than the influent described on the facility's application for a waste discharge license. Such wastes may include, but are not limited to septage, industrial wastes or other wastes to which chemicals in quantities potentially harmful to the treatment facility or receiving water have been added.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

I. DISPOSAL OF TRANSPORTED WASTES IN WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY (cont'd)

2. The character and handling of all transported wastes received must be consistent with the information and management plans provided in application materials submitted to the Department.
3. At no time must the addition of transported wastes cause or contribute to effluent quality violations. Transported wastes may not cause an upset or pass through the treatment process or have any adverse impact on the sludge disposal practices of the wastewater treatment facility. Wastes that contain heavy metals, toxic chemicals, extreme pH, flammable or corrosive materials in concentrations harmful to the treatment operation must be refused. Odors and traffic from the handling of transported wastes may not result in adverse impacts to the surrounding community. If any adverse effects exist, the receipt or introduction of transported wastes into the treatment process or solids handling stream must be suspended until there is no further risk of adverse effects.
4. The permittee must maintain records for each load of transported wastes in a daily log which must include at a minimum the following.
 - (a) The date;
 - (b) The volume of transported wastes received;
 - (c) The source of the transported wastes;
 - (d) The person transporting the transported wastes;
 - (e) The results of inspections or testing conducted;
 - (f) The volumes of transported wastes added to each treatment stream; and
 - (g) The information in (a) through (d) for any transported wastes refused for acceptance.These records must be maintained at the treatment facility for a minimum of five years.
5. The addition of transported wastes into the treatment process or solids handling stream must not cause the treatment facilities design capacity to be exceeded. If, for any reason, the treatment process or solids handling facilities become overloaded, introduction of transported wastes into the treatment process or solids handling stream must be reduced or terminated in order to eliminate the overload condition.
6. Holding tank wastewater from domestic sources to which no chemicals in quantities potentially harmful to the treatment process have been added must not be recorded as transported wastes but should be reported in the treatment facility's influent flow.
7. During wet weather events, transported wastes may be added to the treatment process or solids handling facilities only in accordance with a current high flow management plan approved by the Department that provides for full treatment of transported wastes without adverse impacts.
8. In consultation with the Department, chemical analysis is required prior to receiving transported wastes from new sources that are not of the same nature as wastes previously received. The analysis must be specific to the type of source and designed to identify concentrations of pollutants that may pass through, upset or otherwise interfere with the facility's operation

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

I. DISPOSAL OF TRANSPORTED WASTES IN WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY (cont'd)

9. Access to transported waste receiving facilities may be permitted only during the times specified in the application materials and under the control and supervision of the person responsible for the wastewater treatment facility or his/her designated representative.
10. The authorization to receive and treat transported wastes is subject to annual review and, after notice to the permittee and other interested parties of record, may be suspended or reduced by the Department as necessary to ensure full compliance with 06-096 CMR 555 and the terms and conditions of this permit.

J. 06-096 CMR 530(2)(D)(4) STATEMENT FOR REDUCED/WAIVED TOXICS TESTING

By December 31 of each calendar year, the permittee must provide the Department with a certification describing any of the following that have occurred since the effective date of this permit *[ICIS Code 96299]*. See **Attachment C** of the Fact Sheet for an acceptable certification form to satisfy this Special Condition.

- (a) Changes in the number or types of non-domestic wastes contributed directly or indirectly to the wastewater treatment works that may increase the toxicity of the discharge.
- (b) Changes in the operation of the treatment works that may increase the toxicity of the discharge.
- (c) Changes in industrial manufacturing processes contributing wastewater to the treatment works that may increase the toxicity of the discharge.

In addition, in the comments section of the certification form, the permittee must provide the Department with statements describing;

- (a) Changes in stormwater collection or inflow/infiltration affecting the facility that may increase the toxicity of the discharge; and
- (b) Increases in the type or volume of transported (hailed) wastes accepted by the facility.

The Department may require that annual testing be re-instated if it determines that there have been changes in the character of the discharge or if annual certifications described above are not submitted.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

K. MONITORING AND REPORTING

Electronic Reporting

NPDES Electronic Reporting, 40 C.F.R. 127, requires MEPDES permit holders to submit monitoring results obtained during the previous month on an electronic discharge monitoring report to the regulatory agency utilizing the USEPA electronic system.

Electronic Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) submitted using the USEPA NetDMR system, must be:

1. Submitted by a facility authorized signatory; and
2. Submitted no later than midnight on the 15th day of the month following the completed reporting period.

Documentation submitted in support of the electronic DMR may be attached to the electronic DMR. Toxics reporting must be done using the DEP toxsheet reporting form. An electronic copy of the Toxsheet reporting document must be submitted to your Department compliance inspector as an attachment to an email. In addition, a hardcopy form of this sheet must be signed and submitted to your compliance inspector, or a copy attached to your NetDMR submittal will suffice.

Documentation submitted electronically to the Department in support of the electronic DMR must be submitted no later than midnight on the 15th day of the month following the completed reporting period.

A signed copy of the DMR and all other reports required herein must be submitted to the Department assigned inspector (unless otherwise specified by the Department) at the following address:

Department of Environmental Protection
Central Maine Regional Office
Bureau of Water Quality
Division of Water Quality Management
17 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

L. REOPENING OF PERMIT FOR MODIFICATION

In accordance with 38 M.R.S. § 414-A(5) and upon evaluation of the tests results or monitoring requirements specified in Special Conditions of this permitting action, new site specific information, or any other pertinent test results or information obtained during the term of this permit, the Department may, at any time and with notice to the permittee, modify this permit to: 1) include effluent limits necessary to control specific pollutants or whole effluent toxicity where there is a reasonable potential that the effluent may cause water quality criteria to be exceeded, (2) require additional monitoring if results on file are inconclusive; or (3) change monitoring requirements or limitations based on new information.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

M. SEVERABILITY

In the event that any provision(s), or part thereof, of this permit is declared to be unlawful by a reviewing court, the remainder of the permit must remain in full force and effect and must be construed and enforced in all aspects as if such unlawful provision, or part thereof, had been omitted, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

**MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT
and
MAINE WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE**

FACT SHEET

DATE: **November 18, 2022**

PERMIT NUMBER: **#ME0102334**

WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE: **#W007742-6C-I-R**

NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:
**TOWN OF NORRIDGEWOCK
P.O. Box 7
Norridgewock, Maine 04957**

COUNTY: **Somerset County**

NAME AND ADDRESS WHERE DISCHARGE(S) OCCUR(S):

**33 Willow Street
Norridgewock, Maine 04957**

RECEIVING WATER CLASSIFICATION: **Kennebec River /Class B**

COGNIZANT OFFICIAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

**Mr. Richard LaBelle, Town Manager
Tel: (207) 634-2252
e-mail: townmanager@townofnorridgewock.com**

1. APPLICATION SUMMARY

- a. Application: On September 20, 2019 the Department of Environmental Protection (Department) accepted as complete for processing, a renewal application for Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) permit #ME0102334 / Maine Waste Discharge License (WDL) #W007742-6C-H-R, which was issued by the Department on December 9, 2014 for a five-year term. The 12/09/14 MEPDES permit authorized the permittee to discharge a monthly average flow of 0.193 million gallons per day (MGD) of secondary treated municipal wastewater from a publicly owned treatment works (POTW) to the Kennebec River, Class B, in Norridgewock, Maine.

1. APPLICATION SUMMARY (cont'd)

- b. Source Description: The wastewater treatment facility receives sanitary wastewater from approximately 390 residential and commercial entities within the Town of Norridgewock. The collection system is a separated system approximately 10 miles in length with three pump stations and no combined sewer overflows (CSOs). The pump stations are equipped with electrical hook-ups such that back-up power can be provided by a portable generator. In addition, the facility's sludge truck is available to transport wastewater from the pump stations if necessary.

Septage at this location is collected in the facility's sludge holding tank. The liquid decanted from the septage is sent through the facility for treatment. The concentrated septage is land-applied at a site next to the Norridgewock Airport during the summer. The facility has a MEDEP land application license. There are no significant industrial sources contributing wastewater to the treatment facility. A map showing the location of the treatment facility is included as Fact Sheet **Attachment A**.

- c. Wastewater Treatment: The wastewater treatment facility provides a secondary level of treatment via a mechanically cleaned bar rack, a grit removal channel, a Parshall flume, two circular package treatment plants operated in parallel and a chlorine contact chamber for disinfection using sodium hypochlorite. The facility is equipped for dechlorination using sodium metabisulfite if necessary. The outfall pipe for the treatment plant extends out into the Kennebec River approximately 100 feet with approximately six feet of water over the top of the pipe during normal low flow conditions.

2. PERMIT SUMMARY

- a. Terms and Conditions: This permitting action is carrying forward all the terms and conditions of the previous permitting action, except that it

1. Amends the dates of E coli testing from May 15 through November 30 for each year of the permit to April 15 - October 31 for each year of the permit.

- b. History: The most current relevant regulatory actions include:

September 14, 1992 – The EPA issued NPDES permit #ME0102334 for a five-year term.

March 17, 1997 – The Town submitted an application to the EPA to renew NPDES permit #ME0102334 that was due to expire on September 14, 1997. The application was deemed by the EPA to be complete for processing. The application was never acted on by the EPA.

April 3, 1997 – The Department issued WDL #W007742-59-D-R for a five-year term.

May 25, 2000 – The Department administratively modified WDL #W007742-5L-D-R by establishing interim limits for the discharge of mercury.

2. PERMIT SUMMARY (cont'd)

January 12, 2001 – The Department received authorization from the USEPA to administer the NPDES permitting program in Maine, excluding areas of special interest to Maine Indian Tribes. From this point forward, the program has been referred to as the MEPDES program, and MEPDES permit #ME0102334 has been utilized for this facility. On March 26, 2011, the USEPA authorized the Department to administer the MEPDES program in Indian territories of the Penobscot Nation and Passamaquoddy Tribe.

November 19, 2003 – The Department issued MEPDES Permit # ME0102334 / WDL #W007742-5L-F-R for a five-year term.

April 10, 2006 – The Department issued a permit modification for testing requirements for the Surface Water Toxics Control Program.

September 8, 2008 – The Town of Norridgewock filed a timely and complete application with the Department to renew the MEPDES permit.

October 30, 2008 - The Department issued MEPDES Permit # ME0102334/WDL #W007742-5L-G-R for a five-year term.

February 6, 2012 – The Department issued minor revision to amend mercury sampling frequency.

November 4, 2013 – The permittee submitted a timely and complete General Application to the Department for renewal of the October 30, 2008 MEPDES permit. The application was accepted for processing on November 4, 2013 and was assigned WDL #W007742-6C-H-R / MEPDES #ME0102334.

December 9, 2014 - The Department issued MEPDES Permit # ME0102334/WDL #W007742-5L-H-R for a five-year term.

September 19, 2019 – The permittee submitted a timely and complete General Application to the Department for renewal of the December 9, 2014 MEPDES permit. The application was accepted for processing on September 20, 2019 and was assigned WDL #W007742-6C-I-R / MEPDES #ME0102334.

3. CONDITIONS OF PERMIT

Conditions of licenses, 38 M.R.S. § 414-A, requires that the effluent limitations prescribed for discharges, including, but not limited to, effluent toxicity, require the application of best practicable treatment (BPT), be consistent with the U.S. Clean Water Act, and ensure that the receiving waters attain the State water quality standards as described in Maine's Surface Water Classification System. In addition, *Certain deposits and discharges prohibited*, 38 M.R.S. § 420 and Department rule *Surface Water Toxics Control Program*, 06-096 CMR 530 (effective March 21, 2012), require the regulation of toxic substances not to exceed levels set forth in *Surface Water Quality Criteria for Toxic Pollutants*, 06-096 CMR 584 (effective July 29, 2012), and that ensure safe levels for the discharge of toxic pollutants such that existing and designated uses of surface waters are maintained and protected.

4. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

Classification of major river basins, 38 M.R.S., § 467(4)(A)(9) classifies the “Kennebec River, main stem, from the Route 201A bridge in Anson-Madison to the Fairfield-Skowhegan boundary, including all impoundments” which includes the river at the point of discharge, as Class B waters. *Standards for classification of fresh surface waters*, 38 M.R.S., § 465(3) describes the standards for Class B waters.

5. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY CONDITIONS

The State of Maine 2020 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report (Report), prepared by the Department pursuant to Sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, lists the waters at Norridgewock as segment unit ME0103000306_338R_01, “Category 4-C: Rivers and Streams with Impairment not Caused by a Pollutant” due to impounded water from the “Main stem between Mill Stream, Norridgewock, and Weston Dam.”

The Report lists all of Maine’s fresh waters as, “Category 4-A: Waters Impaired by Atmospheric Deposition of Mercury.” Impairment in this context refers to a statewide fish consumption advisory due to elevated levels of mercury in some fish tissues. The Report states, “All freshwaters are listed in Category 4A (TMDL Completed) due to USEPA approval of a Regional Mercury TMDL. Maine has a fish consumption advisory for fish taken from all freshwaters due to mercury. Many waters, and many fish from any given water, do not exceed the action level for mercury. However, because it is impossible for someone consuming a fish to know whether the mercury level exceeds the action level, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services decided to establish a statewide advisory for all freshwater fish that recommends limits on consumption. Maine has already instituted statewide programs for removal and reduction of mercury sources.” Pursuant to 38 M.R.S. § 420(1-B)(B), “a facility is not in violation of the ambient criteria for mercury if the facility is in compliance with an interim discharge limit established by the Department pursuant to section 413 subsection 11.” The Department has established interim monthly average and daily maximum mercury concentration limits and reporting requirements for this facility pursuant to 06-096 CMR 519.

The Department has no information at this time that the discharge from the Town of Norridgewock, as permitted, will cause or contribute to the failure of the receiving water to meet the designated uses of its ascribed classification.

6. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

- a. Flow: This permit is carrying forward the daily maximum discharge flow reporting requirement and previously established monthly average flow limitation of 0.193 MGD based on the design capacity for the treatment facility.

The Department reviewed 49 Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) that were submitted for the period July 2014-July 2021. A review of data indicates the following:

Flow

Value	Limit (MGD)	Range (MGD)	Mean (MGD)
Monthly Average	0.193	0.03 – 0.11	0.06
Daily Maximum	Report	0.04 – 0.93	0.10

- b. Dilution Factors: Dilution factors associated with the permitted discharge flow of 0.193 MGD were derived in accordance with 06-096 CMR 530(4)(A) and were calculated as follows:

$$\text{Dilution Factor} = \frac{\text{River flow(cfs)}(\text{Conv. Factor}) + \text{Discharge Flow(MGD)}}{\text{Discharge Flow(MGD)}}$$

$$\text{Chronic: } 7\text{Q}_{10} = 2356 \text{ cfs} \Rightarrow \frac{(2356 \text{ cfs})(0.6464) + (0.193 \text{ MGD})}{(0.193 \text{ MGD})} = 7892:1$$

$$\text{Acute: } 1\text{Q}_{10} = 1920 \text{ cfs} \Rightarrow \frac{(1920 \text{ cfs})(0.6464) + (0.193 \text{ MGD})}{(0.193 \text{ MGD})} = 6432:1$$

$$\text{Acute } \frac{1}{4} \text{ of } 1\text{Q}_{10}^{(1)} = 480 \text{ cfs} \Rightarrow \frac{(480 \text{ cfs})(0.6464) + (0.193 \text{ MGD})}{(0.193 \text{ MGD})} = 1609:1$$

$$\text{Harmonic Mean: } = 3952 \text{ cfs} \Rightarrow \frac{(3952 \text{ cfs})(0.6464) + (0.193 \text{ MGD})}{(0.193 \text{ MGD})} = 13,237:1$$

Footnote:

- (1) Chapter 530.5 (D)(4)(a) states that analyses using numeric acute criteria for aquatic life must be based on 1/4 of the 1Q₁₀ stream design flow to prevent substantial acute toxicity within any mixing zone. The 1Q₁₀ is the lowest one-day flow over a ten-year recurrence interval. The regulation goes on to say that where it can be demonstrated that a discharge achieves rapid and complete mixing with the receiving water by way of an efficient diffuser or other effective method, analyses may use a greater proportion of the stream design, up to including all of it. The Department has made the determination that the discharge does not receive rapid and complete mixing. Therefore, the default stream flow of 1/4 of the 1Q₁₀ is applicable in acute statistical evaluations.

6. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS (cont'd)

- c. Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD₅) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS): Previous permitting action established, and this permitting action is carrying forward, monthly average and weekly average technology-based concentration limits of 30 mg/L and 45 mg/L, respectively, for BOD₅ and TSS based on the secondary treatment requirements specified at *Effluent Guidelines and Standards*, 06-096 CMR 525(3)(III) (effective January 12, 2001), and a daily maximum concentration limit of 50 mg/L, which is based on a Department best professional judgment (BPJ) of best practicable treatment (BPT) for secondary treated wastewater. The monthly and weekly average maximum technology-based mass limitations are being carried forward in this permitting action and are based on a monthly flow limit of 0.193 MGD. The mass limits were derived as follows:

Monthly average: $(0.193 \text{ MGD})(8.34)(30 \text{ mg/L}) = 48 \text{ lbs./day}$

Weekly average: $(0.193 \text{ MGD})(8.34)(45 \text{ mg/L}) = 72 \text{ lbs./day}$

Daily maximum: $(0.193 \text{ MGD})(8.34)(50 \text{ mg/L}) = 81 \text{ lbs./day}$

This permitting action is carrying forward a requirement for a minimum of 85% removal of BOD₅ & TSS pursuant to 06-096 CMR 525(3)(III)(a&b)(3).

The Department reviewed 78 DMRs that were submitted for the period July 2014-July 2021. A review of data indicates the following:

BOD₅ mass

Value	Limit (lbs./day)	Range (lbs./day)	Mean (lbs./day)
Monthly Average	48	0.1 – 20.5	5.6
Weekly Average	72	1.0 – 55.4	7.6
Daily Maximum	81	1.0 – 55.4	7.8

BOD₅ concentration

Value	Limit (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)	Mean (mg/L)
Monthly Average	30	2.3 – 29.6	10.8
Weekly Average	45	2.4 – 78.0	14.3
Daily Maximum	50	2.4 – 78.0	14.7

The Department reviewed 49 DMRs that were submitted for the period July 2014-July 2021. A review of data indicates the following:

TSS mass

Value	Limit (lbs./day)	Range (lbs./day)	Mean (lbs./day)
Monthly Average	48	0 – 13.8	3.4
Weekly Average	72	0.3 – 18.1	5.3
Daily Maximum	81	0.3 – 18.1	5.3

TSS concentration

Value	Limit (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)	Mean (mg/L)
Monthly Average	30	1.0 – 21.5	7.3
Weekly Average	45	1.2 – 31	10.7
Daily Maximum	50	1.2 – 31	10.8

6. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS (cont'd)

In consideration of the results of effluent monitoring for compliance demonstration with the previous permit, the minimum monitoring frequency requirement prescribed by 40 CFR 122.44(i)(2)(B(2)), guidance provided by *Interim Guidance for Performance Based Reductions of NPDES Permit Monitoring Frequencies* (USEPA Guidance April 1996) and a Department best professional judgment based on guidance provided by *Performance Based Reduction of Monitoring Frequencies - Modification of EPA Guidance released April 1996* (Maine DEP May 22, 2014) this permitting action is reducing the monitoring frequencies for BOD & TSS from 1/Week to 2/Month with at least ten (10) days between sampling events.

- d. Settleable Solids: This permit is carrying forward the previously established technology-based daily maximum concentration limit of 0.3 ml/L for settleable solids, which is considered a BPT for secondary treated wastewater.

The Department reviewed 49 DMRs that were submitted for the period July 2014-July 2021. A review of data indicates the following:

Settleable solids concentration

Value	Limit (ml/L)	Range (ml/L)	Average (ml/L)
Daily Maximum	0.3	0.10 - 0.10	0.1

This permitting action is carrying forward the 3/Week monitoring frequency for settleable solids.

- e. Escherichia coli Bacteria: Previous permitting action established seasonal (May 15–September 30) monthly average and daily maximum concentration limits for *E. coli* bacteria of 64 colonies/100 ml (geometric mean) and 427 colonies/100 ml (instantaneous level), respectively, which were based on the State of Maine Water Classification Program criteria for Class B waters and a minimum monitoring frequency requirements of once per week.

Subsequent to issuance of the previous permit, the State Legislature adopted more stringent AWQC for *E. coli* bacteria. The newer criteria for Class B waste are 64 colonies/100 ml as a monthly average and 236 colonies/100 ml as a daily maximum. The Department has made the determination that after taking into consider the dilution associated with the discharge, the daily maximum BPT limit established in the previous permitting action is protective of the newer AWQC for bacteria.

In addition to newer criteria, the Department has expanded the seasonal testing dates for *E. coli*. This permitting action is establishing seasonal testing dates to run from April 15-October 31 of each year of the permit.

Although *E. coli* bacteria limits are seasonal and apply between April 15 – October 31 of each year, the Department reserves the right to impose year-round bacteria limits if deemed necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

6. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS (cont'd)

The Department reviewed 20 DMRs that were submitted for the period July 2014 – July 2021. A review of data indicates the following:

***E. coli* Bacteria**

Value	Limit (col/100 ml)	Range (col/100 ml)	Mean (col/100 ml)
Monthly Average	64	3 – 12	6
Daily Maximum	427	9 -56	25

This permitting action carries forward the previously established monitoring frequency for *E. coli* of 2/Month with at least ten (10) days between sampling events.

- f. **Total Residual Chlorine (TRC):** The previous permitting action established, and this permitting action carries forward technology-based daily maximum concentration limit of 1.0 mg/L for TRC. Limitations on TRC are specified to ensure that ambient water quality standards are maintained and that BPT technology is being applied to the discharge. Department permitting actions impose the more stringent of either a water quality-based or BPT-based limit. With dilution factors as determined above, end-of-pipe (EOP) water quality-based concentration thresholds for TRC may be calculated as follows:

Acute (A) Criterion	Chronic (C) Criterion	A & C Dilution Factors	Calculated Acute Threshold	Chronic Threshold
19 µg/L	11 µg/L	1609:1 (A) 7892:1 (C)	31 mg/L	87 mg/L

The Department has established a daily maximum BPT limitation of 1.0 mg/L for facilities that disinfect their effluent with elemental chlorine or chlorine-based compounds. The daily maximum technology-based standard of 1.0 mg/L is more stringent than the calculated chronic water quality-based threshold of 31 mg/L and is therefore being carried forward in this permitting action.

The Department reviewed 35 DMRs that were submitted for the period July 2014 – July 2021. A review of data indicates the following:

Total residual chlorine

Value	Limit (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)	Mean (mg/L)
Daily Maximum	1.0	0.0 - 0.1	0.5

- g. **pH:** Previous permitting action established, and this permitting action is carrying forward, a technology-based pH limit of 6.0 – 9.0 standard units (SU), which is based on 06-096 CMR 525(3)(III).

6. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS (cont'd)

The Department reviewed 84 DMRs that were submitted for the period July 2014 – July 2021. A review of data indicates the following:

pH

Value	Limit (SU)	Minimum (SU)	Maximum (SU)
Range	6.0 – 9.0	6.4	7.7

This permitting action carries forward the previously established monitoring frequency of 3/Week for pH.

- h. Mercury: Pursuant to *Certain deposits and discharges prohibited*, 38 M.R.S. § 420 and *Waste discharge licenses*, 38 M.R.S. § 413 and *Interim Effluent Limitations and Controls for the Discharge of Mercury*, 06-096 CMR 519 (last amended October 6, 2001), the Department issued a *Notice of Interim Limits for the Discharge of Mercury* to the permittee thereby administratively modifying WDL #W007742-5L-F-R by establishing interim monthly average and daily maximum effluent concentration limits of 4.5 parts per trillion (ppt) and 6.8 ppt, respectively, and a minimum monitoring frequency requirement of one tests per year for mercury. It is noted the limitations have been incorporated into Special Condition A, *Effluent Limitations And Monitoring Requirements*, of this permit.

38 M.R.S. § 420(1-B)(B)(1) provides that a facility is not in violation of the AWQC for mercury if the facility is in compliance with an interim discharge limit established by the Department.

The Department reviewed 17 laboratory results that were submitted for the period July 2014 – July 2021. A review of data indicates the following:

Mercury

Value	Limit (ng/L)	Range (ng/L)	Mean (ng/L)
Average	4.5	1.0 – 2.1	1
Daily Maximum	6.8		

On February 6, 2012, the Department issued a minor revision to the October 30, 2008 permit thereby revising the minimum monitoring frequency requirement from twice per year to once per year pursuant to 38 M.R.S. § 420(1-B)(F).

Pursuant to 38 M.R.S. § 420(1-B)(F), this permitting action is carrying forward the previously established 1/Year monitoring frequency.

6. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS (cont'd)

- i. Total Phosphorus: *Waste Discharge License Conditions*, 06-096 CMR 523 specifies that water quality based limits are necessary when it has been determined that a discharge has a reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an excursion above any State water quality standard including State narrative criteria.¹ In addition, 06-096 CMR 523 specifies that water quality based limits may be based upon criterion derived from a proposed State criterion, or an explicit State policy or regulation interpreting its narrative water quality criterion, supplemented with other relevant information which may include: EPA's Water Quality Standards Handbook, October 1983, risk assessment data, exposure data, information about the pollutant from the Food and Drug Administration, and current EPA criteria documents.²

USEPA's Quality Criteria for Water 1986 (Gold Book) puts forth an in-stream phosphorus concentration recommendation of less than 100 µg/L (0.1 mg/L) in streams or other flowing waters not discharging directly to lakes or impoundments, to prevent nuisance algal growth. The use of the 0.1 mg/L Gold Book goal is consistent with the requirements of 06-096 CMR 523 noted above for use in a reasonable potential (RP) calculation.

Based on the above rationale, the Department has chosen to utilize the Gold Book standard of 100 µg/L. It is the Department's intent to continue to make determinations of actual attainment or impairment based upon environmental response indicators from specific water bodies. The use of the Gold Book goal of 100 µg/L for use in the RP calculation will enable the Department to establish water quality based limits in a manner that is reasonable and that appropriately establishes the potential for impairment, while providing an opportunity to acquire environmental response indicator data, numeric nutrient indicator data, and facility data as needed to refine the establishment of site-specific water quality-based limits for phosphorus. Therefore, this permit may be reopened during the term of the permit to modify any reasonable potential calculation, phosphorus limits, or monitoring requirements based on site-specific data.

The permittee has not been conducting total phosphorus testing on the effluent from the treatment facility. However, the Department has numerous total phosphorus data results for publicly owned treatment works throughout the State. Based on this data the Department is assuming a discharge concentration of 2.2 mg/L (2,200 µg/L) (typical from POTWs). Background concentration data for the Kennebec was gathered by the Rivers Unit of the Division of Environmental Assessment (DEA) in two, three-day low flow monitoring studies in the summer of 1997 and 1998 and again by the permittee during the summer of 2014. These monitoring events indicate the average background total phosphorus concentration is 8 µg/L. Using the following calculation and criteria, the Town does not exhibit a reasonable potential to exceed the EPA's Gold Book ambient water quality criteria of 0.1 mg/L (100 µg/L) for phosphorus or the Department's 06-096 CMR 583 draft criteria of 30 µg/L.

¹ *Waste Discharge License Conditions*, 06-096 CMR 523(5)(d)(1)(i) (effective date January 12, 2001)

² 06-096 CMR 523(5)(d)(1)(vi)(A)

6. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS (cont'd)

$$Cr = \frac{Q_e C_e + Q_s C_s}{Q_r}$$

Q _e = effluent flow i.e. facility design flow	=	0.193 MGD
C _e = effluent pollutant concentration	=	2.2 mg/L
Q _s = 7Q10 flow of receiving water	=	1523 MGD
C _s = upstream concentration	=	0.008 mg/L
Q _r = receiving water flow	=	1523.193 MGD
Cr = receiving water concentration		

$$Cr = \frac{(0.193 \text{ MGD} \times 2.2 \text{ mg/L}) + (1523 \text{ MGD} \times 0.008 \text{ mg/L})}{1523.193 \text{ MGD}} = 0.008 \text{ mg/L}$$

$$Cr = 0.008 \text{ mg/L} < 0.1 \text{ mg/L} \Rightarrow \text{No Reasonable Potential}$$

$$Cr = 0.008 \text{ mg/L} < 0.030 \text{ mg/L} \Rightarrow \text{No Reasonable Potential}$$

Therefore, no end-of-pipe limitations for total phosphorus are being established in this permitting action.

j. Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET), Priority Pollutant, and Analytical Chemistry Testing

Maine law 38 M.R.S. § 414-A and 38 M.R.S. § 420 prohibit the discharge of effluents containing substances in amounts that would cause the surface waters of the State to contain toxic substances above levels set forth in Federal Water Quality Criteria as established by the USEPA.

06-096 CMR 530(2)(A) specifies the dischargers subject to the rule as:

All licensed dischargers of industrial process wastewater or domestic wastes discharging to surface waters of the State must meet the testing requirements of this section. Dischargers of other types of wastewater are subject to this subsection when and if the Department determines that toxicity of effluents may have reasonable potential to cause or contribute to exceedances of narrative or numerical water quality criteria.

6. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS (cont'd)

06-096 CMR 530(3)(E) states:

For effluent monitoring data and the variability of the pollutant in the effluent, the Department must apply the statistical approach in Section 3.3.2 and Table 3-2 of USEPA's "Technical Support Document for Water Quality-Based Toxics Control" (USEPA Publication 505/2-90-001, March, 1991, USEPA, Office of Water, Washington, D.C.) to data to determine whether water-quality based effluent limits must be included in a waste discharge license. Where it is determined through this approach that a discharge contains pollutants or WET at levels that have a reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality criteria, appropriate water quality-based limits must be established in any licensing action.

06-096 CMR 530(2)(D)(1) specifies WET, priority pollutant, and analytical chemistry test schedules for dischargers based on their level³ as defined by 06-096 CMR 530(2)(B). Please see 06-096 CMR 530(2)(D)(1) for a listing of routine test schedules.

Routine testing requirements for Level IV facilities are waived except that the Department shall require an individual discharger to conduct testing under the following conditions.

- (a) The discharger's permit application or information available to the Department indicate that toxic compounds may be present in toxic amounts; or
- (b) Previous testing conducted by the discharger or similar dischargers indicates that toxic compounds may be present in toxic amounts.

Additionally, new or substantially changed dischargers assigned to Level IV must conduct testing during the first two years of the discharge. Further testing is waived provided the testing done does not indicate any reasonable potential for exceedance as calculated pursuant to section 3(E).

Special Condition K, *Chapter 530 (2)(D)(4) Certification* of the previous permit established reduced testing pursuant to 06-096 CMR 530(2)(D)(4). The Department is carrying forward the waiver for WET and analytical chemical testing and the annual certification statement requirement is being carried forward in this permitting action as required under Special Condition K. *06-096 CMR 530(2)(D)(4) Statement For Reduced/Waived Toxics Testing.*

³ A facility falls into an applicable level based on their chronic dilution factor. The chronic dilution factor associated with the discharge from the permittee is 7892:1; therefore, pursuant to 06-096 CMR 530(2)(B), this facility is considered a Level IV facility for purposes of toxics testing.

7. DISPOSAL OF SEPTAGE WASTE IN WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

The previous permitting action authorized the permittee to receive and introduce up to 2,000 gpd of septage into the wastewater treatment process or solids handling stream. Department rule Chapter 555, *Standards For The Addition of Transported Wastes to Wastewater Treatment Facilities*, limits the quantity of transported wastes received at a facility to 1% of the design capacity of the treatment facility if the facility utilizes a side stream or storage method of introduction into the influent flow, or 0.5% of the design capacity of the facility if the facility does not utilize the side stream or storage method of introduction into the influent flow. A facility may receive more than 1% of the design capacity on a case-by-case basis. The permittee has requested the Department carry forward the daily quantity of transported wastes that it is authorized to receive and treat (up to 2,000 gpd) as it utilizes the side stream/storage method of metering transported wastes into the facility's influent flow. With a design capacity of 0.193 MGD, 2,000 gpd only represents 1% of said capacity.

The Department has determined that under normal operating conditions, the receipt and treatment of 2,000 gpd of transported wastes to the facility will not cause or contribute to upset conditions of the treatment process.

8. DISCHARGE IMPACT ON RECEIVING WATER QUALITY

As permitted, the Department has determined the existing water uses will be maintained and protected and the discharge will not cause or contribute to the failure of the water body to meet standards for Class B classification.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public notice of this application was made in the *Morning Sentinel* newspaper on or about October 31, 2019. The Department receives public comments on an application until the date a final agency action is taken on the application. Those persons receiving copies of draft permits shall have at least 30 days in which to submit comments on the draft or to request a public hearing, pursuant to *Application Processing Procedures for Waste Discharge Licenses*, 06-096 CMR 522 (effective January 12, 2001).

10. DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

Additional information concerning this permitting action may be obtained from:

Rodney Robert
Division of Water Quality Management
Bureau of Water Quality
Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017
Telephone: (207) 446 1875

e-mail: rodney.robert@maine.gov

11. RESPIONSE TO COMMENTS

The Department did not receive comments from interested parties regarding this permit. Therefore, a response to comments has not been prepared.

ATTACHMENT A

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. General compliance. All discharges shall be consistent with the terms and conditions of this permit; any changes in production capacity or process modifications which result in changes in the quantity or the characteristics of the discharge must be authorized by an additional license or by modifications of this permit; it shall be a violation of the terms and conditions of this permit to discharge any pollutant not identified and authorized herein or to discharge in excess of the rates or quantities authorized herein or to violate any other conditions of this permit.

2. Other materials. Other materials ordinarily produced or used in the operation of this facility, which have been specifically identified in the application, may be discharged at the maximum frequency and maximum level identified in the application, provided:

- (a) They are not
 - (i) Designated as toxic or hazardous under the provisions of Sections 307 and 311, respectively, of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act; Title 38, Section 420, Maine Revised Statutes; or other applicable State Law; or
 - (ii) Known to be hazardous or toxic by the licensee.
- (b) The discharge of such materials will not violate applicable water quality standards.

3. Duty to comply. The permittee must comply with all conditions of this permit. Any permit noncompliance constitutes a violation of State law and the Clean Water Act and is grounds for enforcement action; for permit termination, revocation and reissuance, or modification; or denial of a permit renewal application.

- (a) The permittee shall comply with effluent standards or prohibitions established under section 307(a) of the Clean Water Act, and 38 MRSA, §420 or Chapter 530.5 for toxic pollutants within the time provided in the regulations that establish these standards or prohibitions, even if the permit has not yet been modified to incorporate the requirement.
- (b) Any person who violates any provision of the laws administered by the Department, including without limitation, a violation of the terms of any order, rule license, permit, approval or decision of the Board or Commissioner is subject to the penalties set forth in 38 MRSA, §349.

4. Duty to provide information. The permittee shall furnish to the Department, within a reasonable time, any information which the Department may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or terminating this permit or to determine compliance with this permit. The permittee shall also furnish to the Department upon request, copies of records required to be kept by this permit.

5. Permit actions. This permit may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause. The filing of a request by the permittee for a permit modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay any permit condition.

6. Reopener clause. The Department reserves the right to make appropriate revisions to this permit in order to establish any appropriate effluent limitations, schedule of compliance or other provisions which may be authorized under 38 MRSA, §414-A(5).

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

7. Oil and hazardous substances. Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities or penalties to which the permittee is or may be subject under section 311 of the Federal Clean Water Act; section 106 of the Federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980; or 38 MRSA §§ 1301, et. seq.

8. Property rights. This permit does not convey any property rights of any sort, or any exclusive privilege.

9. Confidentiality of records. 38 MRSA §414(6) reads as follows. "Any records, reports or information obtained under this subchapter is available to the public, except that upon a showing satisfactory to the department by any person that any records, reports or information, or particular part or any record, report or information, other than the names and addresses of applicants, license applications, licenses, and effluent data, to which the department has access under this subchapter would, if made public, divulge methods or processes that are entitled to protection as trade secrets, these records, reports or information must be confidential and not available for public inspection or examination. Any records, reports or information may be disclosed to employees or authorized representatives of the State or the United States concerned with carrying out this subchapter or any applicable federal law, and to any party to a hearing held under this section on terms the commissioner may prescribe in order to protect these confidential records, reports and information, as long as this disclosure is material and relevant to any issue under consideration by the department."

10. Duty to reapply. If the permittee wishes to continue an activity regulated by this permit after the expiration date of this permit, the permittee must apply for and obtain a new permit.

11. Other laws. The issuance of this permit does not authorize any injury to persons or property or invasion of other property rights, nor does it relieve the permittee of its obligation to comply with other applicable Federal, State or local laws and regulations.

12. Inspection and entry. The permittee shall allow the Department, or an authorized representative (including an authorized contractor acting as a representative of the EPA Administrator), upon presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to:

- (a) Enter upon the permittee's premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted, or where records must be kept under the conditions of this permit;
- (b) Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the conditions of this permit;
- (c) Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this permit; and
- (d) Sample or monitor at reasonable times, for the purposes of assuring permit compliance or as otherwise authorized by the Clean Water Act, any substances or parameters at any location.

B. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES

1. General facility requirements.

- (a) The permittee shall collect all waste flows designated by the Department as requiring treatment and discharge them into an approved waste treatment facility in such a manner as to

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

- maximize removal of pollutants unless authorization to the contrary is obtained from the Department.
- (b) The permittee shall at all times maintain in good working order and operate at maximum efficiency all waste water collection, treatment and/or control facilities.
 - (c) All necessary waste treatment facilities will be installed and operational prior to the discharge of any wastewaters.
 - (d) Final plans and specifications must be submitted to the Department for review prior to the construction or modification of any treatment facilities.
 - (e) The permittee shall install flow measuring facilities of a design approved by the Department.
 - (f) The permittee must provide an outfall of a design approved by the Department which is placed in the receiving waters in such a manner that the maximum mixing and dispersion of the wastewaters will be achieved as rapidly as possible.

2. Proper operation and maintenance. The permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) which are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the conditions of this permit. Proper operation and maintenance also includes adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of back-up or auxiliary facilities or similar systems which are installed by a permittee only when the operation is necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of the permit.

3. Need to halt or reduce activity not a defense. It shall not be a defense for a permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this permit.

4. Duty to mitigate. The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge or sludge use or disposal in violation of this permit which has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment.

5. Bypasses.

- (a) Definitions.
 - (i) Bypass means the intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of a treatment facility.
 - (ii) Severe property damage means substantial physical damage to property, damage to the treatment facilities which causes them to become inoperable, or substantial and permanent loss of natural resources which can reasonably be expected to occur in the absence of a bypass. Severe property damage does not mean economic loss caused by delays in production.
- (b) Bypass not exceeding limitations. The permittee may allow any bypass to occur which does not cause effluent limitations to be exceeded, but only if it also is for essential maintenance to assure efficient operation. These bypasses are not subject to the provisions of paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section.
- (c) Notice.
 - (i) Anticipated bypass. If the permittee knows in advance of the need for a bypass, it shall submit prior notice, if possible at least ten days before the date of the bypass.

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- (ii) Unanticipated bypass. The permittee shall submit notice of an unanticipated bypass as required in paragraph D(1)(f), below. (24-hour notice).
- (d) Prohibition of bypass.
 - (i) Bypass is prohibited, and the Department may take enforcement action against a permittee for bypass, unless:
 - (A) Bypass was unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage;
 - (B) There were no feasible alternatives to the bypass, such as the use of auxiliary treatment facilities, retention of untreated wastes, or maintenance during normal periods of equipment downtime. This condition is not satisfied if adequate back-up equipment should have been installed in the exercise of reasonable engineering judgment to prevent a bypass which occurred during normal periods of equipment downtime or preventive maintenance; and
 - (C) The permittee submitted notices as required under paragraph (c) of this section.
 - (ii) The Department may approve an anticipated bypass, after considering its adverse effects, if the Department determines that it will meet the three conditions listed above in paragraph (d)(i) of this section.

6. Upsets.

- (a) Definition. Upset means an exceptional incident in which there is unintentional and temporary noncompliance with technology based permit effluent limitations because of factors beyond the reasonable control of the permittee. An upset does not include noncompliance to the extent caused by operational error, improperly designed treatment facilities, inadequate treatment facilities, lack of preventive maintenance, or careless or improper operation.
- (b) Effect of an upset. An upset constitutes an affirmative defense to an action brought for noncompliance with such technology based permit effluent limitations if the requirements of paragraph (c) of this section are met. No determination made during administrative review of claims that noncompliance was caused by upset, and before an action for noncompliance, is final administrative action subject to judicial review.
- (c) Conditions necessary for a demonstration of upset. A permittee who wishes to establish the affirmative defense of upset shall demonstrate, through properly signed, contemporaneous operating logs, or other relevant evidence that:
 - (i) An upset occurred and that the permittee can identify the cause(s) of the upset;
 - (ii) The permitted facility was at the time being properly operated; and
 - (iii) The permittee submitted notice of the upset as required in paragraph D(1)(f) , below. (24 hour notice).
 - (iv) The permittee complied with any remedial measures required under paragraph B(4).
- (d) Burden of proof. In any enforcement proceeding the permittee seeking to establish the occurrence of an upset has the burden of proof.

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C. MONITORING AND RECORDS

1. General Requirements. This permit shall be subject to such monitoring requirements as may be reasonably required by the Department including the installation, use and maintenance of monitoring equipment or methods (including, where appropriate, biological monitoring methods). The permittee shall provide the Department with periodic reports on the proper Department reporting form of monitoring results obtained pursuant to the monitoring requirements contained herein.

2. Representative sampling. Samples and measurements taken as required herein shall be representative of the volume and nature of the monitored discharge. If effluent limitations are based wholly or partially on quantities of a product processed, the permittee shall ensure samples are representative of times when production is taking place. Where discharge monitoring is required when production is less than 50%, the resulting data shall be reported as a daily measurement but not included in computation of averages, unless specifically authorized by the Department.

3. Monitoring and records.

- (a) Samples and measurements taken for the purpose of monitoring shall be representative of the monitored activity.
- (b) Except for records of monitoring information required by this permit related to the permittee's sewage sludge use and disposal activities, which shall be retained for a period of at least five years, the permittee shall retain records of all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation, copies of all reports required by this permit, and records of all data used to complete the application for this permit, for a period of at least 3 years from the date of the sample, measurement, report or application. This period may be extended by request of the Department at any time.
- (c) Records of monitoring information shall include:
 - (i) The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurements;
 - (ii) The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements;
 - (iii) The date(s) analyses were performed;
 - (iv) The individual(s) who performed the analyses;
 - (v) The analytical techniques or methods used; and
 - (vi) The results of such analyses.
- (d) Monitoring results must be conducted according to test procedures approved under 40 CFR part 136, unless other test procedures have been specified in the permit.
- (e) State law provides that any person who tampers with or renders inaccurate any monitoring devices or method required by any provision of law, or any order, rule license, permit approval or decision is subject to the penalties set forth in 38 MRSA, §349.

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D. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. Reporting requirements.

- (a) Planned changes. The permittee shall give notice to the Department as soon as possible of any planned physical alterations or additions to the permitted facility. Notice is required only when:
 - (i) The alteration or addition to a permitted facility may meet one of the criteria for determining whether a facility is a new source in 40 CFR 122.29(b); or
 - (ii) The alteration or addition could significantly change the nature or increase the quantity of pollutants discharged. This notification applies to pollutants which are subject neither to effluent limitations in the permit, nor to notification requirements under Section D(4).
 - (iii) The alteration or addition results in a significant change in the permittee's sludge use or disposal practices, and such alteration, addition, or change may justify the application of permit conditions that are different from or absent in the existing permit, including notification of additional use or disposal sites not reported during the permit application process or not reported pursuant to an approved land application plan;
- (b) Anticipated noncompliance. The permittee shall give advance notice to the Department of any planned changes in the permitted facility or activity which may result in noncompliance with permit requirements.
- (c) Transfers. This permit is not transferable to any person except upon application to and approval of the Department pursuant to 38 MRSA, § 344 and Chapters 2 and 522.
- (d) Monitoring reports. Monitoring results shall be reported at the intervals specified elsewhere in this permit.
 - (i) Monitoring results must be reported on a Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) or forms provided or specified by the Department for reporting results of monitoring of sludge use or disposal practices.
 - (ii) If the permittee monitors any pollutant more frequently than required by the permit using test procedures approved under 40 CFR part 136 or as specified in the permit, the results of this monitoring shall be included in the calculation and reporting of the data submitted in the DMR or sludge reporting form specified by the Department.
 - (iii) Calculations for all limitations which require averaging of measurements shall utilize an arithmetic mean unless otherwise specified by the Department in the permit.
- (e) Compliance schedules. Reports of compliance or noncompliance with, or any progress reports on, interim and final requirements contained in any compliance schedule of this permit shall be submitted no later than 14 days following each schedule date.
- (f) Twenty-four hour reporting.
 - (i) The permittee shall report any noncompliance which may endanger health or the environment. Any information shall be provided orally within 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. A written submission shall also be provided within 5 days of the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. The written submission shall contain a description of the noncompliance and its cause; the period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times, and if the noncompliance

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has not been corrected, the anticipated time it is expected to continue; and steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent reoccurrence of the noncompliance.

- (ii) The following shall be included as information which must be reported within 24 hours under this paragraph.

- (A) Any unanticipated bypass which exceeds any effluent limitation in the permit.

- (B) Any upset which exceeds any effluent limitation in the permit.

- (C) Violation of a maximum daily discharge limitation for any of the pollutants listed by the Department in the permit to be reported within 24 hours.

- (iii) The Department may waive the written report on a case-by-case basis for reports under paragraph (f)(ii) of this section if the oral report has been received within 24 hours.

- (g) Other noncompliance. The permittee shall report all instances of noncompliance not reported under paragraphs (d), (e), and (f) of this section, at the time monitoring reports are submitted. The reports shall contain the information listed in paragraph (f) of this section.

- (h) Other information. Where the permittee becomes aware that it failed to submit any relevant facts in a permit application, or submitted incorrect information in a permit application or in any report to the Department, it shall promptly submit such facts or information.

2. Signatory requirement. All applications, reports, or information submitted to the Department shall be signed and certified as required by Chapter 521, Section 5 of the Department's rules. State law provides that any person who knowingly makes any false statement, representation or certification in any application, record, report, plan or other document filed or required to be maintained by any order, rule, permit, approval or decision of the Board or Commissioner is subject to the penalties set forth in 38 MRSA, §349.

3. Availability of reports. Except for data determined to be confidential under A(9), above, all reports prepared in accordance with the terms of this permit shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the Department. As required by State law, effluent data shall not be considered confidential. Knowingly making any false statement on any such report may result in the imposition of criminal sanctions as provided by law.

4. Existing manufacturing, commercial, mining, and silvicultural dischargers. In addition to the reporting requirements under this Section, all existing manufacturing, commercial, mining, and silvicultural dischargers must notify the Department as soon as they know or have reason to believe:

- (a) That any activity has occurred or will occur which would result in the discharge, on a routine or frequent basis, of any toxic pollutant which is not limited in the permit, if that discharge will exceed the highest of the following "notification levels":

- (i) One hundred micrograms per liter (100 ug/l);

- (ii) Two hundred micrograms per liter (200 ug/l) for acrolein and acrylonitrile; five hundred micrograms per liter (500 ug/l) for 2,4-dinitrophenol and for 2-methyl-4,6-dinitrophenol; and one milligram per liter (1 mg/l) for antimony;

- (iii) Five (5) times the maximum concentration value reported for that pollutant in the permit application in accordance with Chapter 521 Section 4(g)(7); or

- (iv) The level established by the Department in accordance with Chapter 523 Section 5(f).

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- (b) That any activity has occurred or will occur which would result in any discharge, on a non-routine or infrequent basis, of a toxic pollutant which is not limited in the permit, if that discharge will exceed the highest of the following "notification levels":
 - (i) Five hundred micrograms per liter (500 ug/l);
 - (ii) One milligram per liter (1 mg/l) for antimony;
 - (iii) Ten (10) times the maximum concentration value reported for that pollutant in the permit application in accordance with Chapter 521 Section 4(g)(7); or
 - (iv) The level established by the Department in accordance with Chapter 523 Section 5(f).

5. Publicly owned treatment works.

- (a) All POTWs must provide adequate notice to the Department of the following:
 - (i) Any new introduction of pollutants into the POTW from an indirect discharger which would be subject to section 301 or 306 of CWA or Chapter 528 if it were directly discharging those pollutants.
 - (ii) Any substantial change in the volume or character of pollutants being introduced into that POTW by a source introducing pollutants into the POTW at the time of issuance of the permit.
 - (iii) For purposes of this paragraph, adequate notice shall include information on (A) the quality and quantity of effluent introduced into the POTW, and (B) any anticipated impact of the change on the quantity or quality of effluent to be discharged from the POTW.
- (b) When the effluent discharged by a POTW for a period of three consecutive months exceeds 80 percent of the permitted flow, the permittee shall submit to the Department a projection of loadings up to the time when the design capacity of the treatment facility will be reached, and a program for maintaining satisfactory treatment levels consistent with approved water quality management plans.

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1. Emergency action - power failure. Within thirty days after the effective date of this permit, the permittee shall notify the Department of facilities and plans to be used in the event the primary source of power to its wastewater pumping and treatment facilities fails as follows.

- (a) For municipal sources. During power failure, all wastewaters which are normally treated shall receive a minimum of primary treatment and disinfection. Unless otherwise approved, alternate power supplies shall be provided for pumping stations and treatment facilities. Alternate power supplies shall be on-site generating units or an outside power source which is separate and independent from sources used for normal operation of the wastewater facilities.
- (b) For industrial and commercial sources. The permittee shall either maintain an alternative power source sufficient to operate the wastewater pumping and treatment facilities or halt, reduce or otherwise control production and or all discharges upon reduction or loss of power to the wastewater pumping or treatment facilities.

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2. Spill prevention. (applicable only to industrial sources) Within six months of the effective date of this permit, the permittee shall submit to the Department for review and approval, with or without conditions, a spill prevention plan. The plan shall delineate methods and measures to be taken to prevent and or contain any spills of pulp, chemicals, oils or other contaminants and shall specify means of disposal and or treatment to be used.

3. Removed substances. Solids, sludges trash rack cleanings, filter backwash, or other pollutants removed from or resulting from the treatment or control of waste waters shall be disposed of in a manner approved by the Department.

4. Connection to municipal sewer. (applicable only to industrial and commercial sources) All wastewaters designated by the Department as treatable in a municipal treatment system will be cosigned to that system when it is available. This permit will expire 90 days after the municipal treatment facility becomes available, unless this time is extended by the Department in writing.

F. DEFINITIONS. For the purposes of this permit, the following definitions shall apply. Other definitions applicable to this permit may be found in Chapters 520 through 529 of the Department's rules

Average means the arithmetic mean of values taken at the frequency required for each parameter over the specified period. For bacteria, the average shall be the geometric mean.

Average monthly discharge limitation means the highest allowable average of daily discharges over a calendar month, calculated as the sum of all daily discharges measured during a calendar month divided by the number of daily discharges measured during that month. Except, however, bacteriological tests may be calculated as a geometric mean.

Average weekly discharge limitation means the highest allowable average of daily discharges over a calendar week, calculated as the sum of all daily discharges measured during a calendar week divided by the number of daily discharges measured during that week.

Best management practices ("BMPs") means schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of waters of the State. BMPs also include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to control plant site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw material storage.

Composite sample means a sample consisting of a minimum of eight grab samples collected at equal intervals during a 24 hour period (or a lesser period as specified in the section on monitoring and reporting) and combined proportional to the flow over that same time period.

Continuous discharge means a discharge which occurs without interruption throughout the operating hours of the facility, except for infrequent shutdowns for maintenance, process changes, or other similar activities.

Daily discharge means the discharge of a pollutant measured during a calendar day or any 24-hour period that reasonably represents the calendar day for purposes of sampling. For pollutants with limitations expressed in units of mass, the daily discharge is calculated as the total mass of the pollutant discharged over the day. For pollutants with limitations expressed in other units of measurement, the daily discharge is calculated as the average measurement of the pollutant over the day.

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Discharge Monitoring Report ("DMR") means the EPA uniform national form, including any subsequent additions, revisions, or modifications for the reporting of self-monitoring results by permittees. DMRs must be used by approved States as well as by EPA. EPA will supply DMRs to any approved State upon request. The EPA national forms may be modified to substitute the State Agency name, address, logo, and other similar information, as appropriate, in place of EPA's.

Flow weighted composite sample means a composite sample consisting of a mixture of aliquots collected at a constant time interval, where the volume of each aliquot is proportional to the flow rate of the discharge.

Grab sample means an individual sample collected in a period of less than 15 minutes.

Interference means a Discharge which, alone or in conjunction with a discharge or discharges from other sources, both:

- (1) Inhibits or disrupts the POTW, its treatment processes or operations, or its sludge processes, use or disposal; and
- (2) Therefore is a cause of a violation of any requirement of the POTW's NPDES permit (including an increase in the magnitude or duration of a violation) or of the prevention of sewage sludge use or disposal in compliance with the following statutory provisions and regulations or permits issued thereunder (or more stringent State or local regulations): Section 405 of the Clean Water Act, the Solid Waste Disposal Act (SWDA) (including title II, more commonly referred to as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and including State regulations contained in any State sludge management plan prepared pursuant to subtitle D of the SWDA), the Clean Air Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, and the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act.

Maximum daily discharge limitation means the highest allowable daily discharge.

New source means any building, structure, facility, or installation from which there is or may be a discharge of pollutants, the construction of which commenced:

- (a) After promulgation of standards of performance under section 306 of CWA which are applicable to such source, or
- (b) After proposal of standards of performance in accordance with section 306 of CWA which are applicable to such source, but only if the standards are promulgated in accordance with section 306 within 120 days of their proposal.

Pass through means a discharge which exits the POTW into waters of the State in quantities or concentrations which, alone or in conjunction with a discharge or discharges from other sources, is a cause of a violation of any requirement of the POTW's NPDES permit (including an increase in the magnitude or duration of a violation).

Permit means an authorization, license, or equivalent control document issued by EPA or an approved State to implement the requirements of 40 CFR parts 122, 123 and 124. Permit includes an NPDES general permit (Chapter 529). Permit does not include any permit which has not yet been the subject of final agency action, such as a draft permit or a proposed permit.

Person means an individual, firm, corporation, municipality, quasi-municipal corporation, state agency, federal agency or other legal entity.

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Point source means any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance, including, but not limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation or vessel or other floating craft, from which pollutants are or may be discharged.

Pollutant means dredged spoil, solid waste, junk, incinerator residue, sewage, refuse, effluent, garbage, sewage sludge, munitions, chemicals, biological or radiological materials, oil, petroleum products or byproducts, heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand, dirt and industrial, municipal, domestic, commercial or agricultural wastes of any kind.

Process wastewater means any water which, during manufacturing or processing, comes into direct contact with or results from the production or use of any raw material, intermediate product, finished product, byproduct, or waste product.

Publicly owned treatment works ("POTW") means any facility for the treatment of pollutants owned by the State or any political subdivision thereof, any municipality, district, quasi-municipal corporation or other public entity.

Septage means, for the purposes of this permit, any waste, refuse, effluent sludge or other material removed from a septic tank, cesspool, vault privy or similar source which concentrates wastes or to which chemicals have been added. Septage does not include wastes from a holding tank.

Time weighted composite means a composite sample consisting of a mixture of equal volume aliquots collected over a constant time interval.

Toxic pollutant includes any pollutant listed as toxic under section 307(a)(1) or, in the case of sludge use or disposal practices, any pollutant identified in regulations implementing section 405(d) of the CWA. Toxic pollutant also includes those substances or combination of substances, including disease causing agents, which after discharge or upon exposure, ingestion, inhalation or assimilation into any organism, including humans either directly through the environment or indirectly through ingestion through food chains, will, on the basis of information available to the board either alone or in combination with other substances already in the receiving waters or the discharge, cause death, disease, abnormalities, cancer, genetic mutations, physiological malfunctions, including malfunctions in reproduction, or physical deformations in such organism or their offspring.

Wetlands means those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

Whole effluent toxicity means the aggregate toxic effect of an effluent measured directly by a toxicity test.



DEP INFORMATION SHEET

Appealing a Department Licensing Decision

Dated: August 2021

Contact: (207) 314-1458

SUMMARY

This document provides information regarding a person's rights and obligations in filing an administrative or judicial appeal of a licensing decision made by the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Commissioner.

Except as provided below, there are two methods available to an aggrieved person seeking to appeal a licensing decision made by the DEP Commissioner: (1) an administrative process before the Board of Environmental Protection (Board); or (2) a judicial process before Maine's Superior Court. An aggrieved person seeking review of a licensing decision over which the Board had original jurisdiction may seek judicial review in Maine's Superior Court.

A judicial appeal of final action by the Commissioner or the Board regarding an application for an expedited wind energy development ([35-A M.R.S. § 3451\(4\)](#)) or a general permit for an offshore wind energy demonstration project ([38 M.R.S. § 480-HH\(1\)](#)) or a general permit for a tidal energy demonstration project ([38 M.R.S. § 636-A](#)) must be taken to the Supreme Judicial Court sitting as the Law Court.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS TO THE BOARD

LEGAL REFERENCES

A person filing an appeal with the Board should review Organization and Powers, [38 M.R.S. §§ 341-D\(4\)](#) and [346](#); the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, 5 M.R.S. § [11001](#); and the DEP's [Rule Concerning the Processing of Applications and Other Administrative Matters \(Chapter 2\)](#), 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 2.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD

Not more than 30 days following the filing of a license decision by the Commissioner with the Board, an aggrieved person may appeal to the Board for review of the Commissioner's decision. The filing of an appeal with the Board, in care of the Board Clerk, is complete when the Board receives the submission by the close of business on the due date (5:00 p.m. on the 30th calendar day from which the Commissioner's decision was filed with the Board, as determined by the received time stamp on the document or electronic mail). Appeals filed after 5:00 p.m. on the 30th calendar day from which the Commissioner's decision was filed with the Board will be dismissed as untimely, absent a showing of good cause.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD

An appeal to the Board may be submitted via postal mail or electronic mail and must contain all signatures and required appeal contents. An electronic filing must contain the scanned original signature of the appellant(s). The appeal documents must be sent to the following address.

Chair, Board of Environmental Protection
c/o Board Clerk
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0017
ruth.a.burke@maine.gov

The DEP may also request the submittal of the original signed paper appeal documents when the appeal is filed electronically. The risk of material not being received in a timely manner is on the sender, regardless of the method used.

At the time an appeal is filed with the Board, the appellant must send a copy of the appeal to: (1) the Commissioner of the DEP (Maine Department of Environmental Protection, 17 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0017); (2) the licensee; and if a hearing was held on the application, (3) any intervenors in that hearing proceeding. **Please contact the DEP at 207-287-7688 with questions or for contact information regarding a specific licensing decision.**

REQUIRED APPEAL CONTENTS

A complete appeal must contain the following information at the time the appeal is submitted.

1. *Aggrieved status.* The appeal must explain how the appellant has standing to bring the appeal. This requires an explanation of how the appellant may suffer a particularized injury as a result of the Commissioner's decision.
2. *The findings, conclusions, or conditions objected to or believed to be in error.* The appeal must identify the specific findings of fact, conclusions of law, license conditions, or other aspects of the written license decision or of the license review process that the appellant objects to or believes to be in error.
3. *The basis of the objections or challenge.* For the objections identified in Item #2, the appeal must state why the appellant believes that the license decision is incorrect and should be modified or reversed. If possible, the appeal should cite specific evidence in the record or specific licensing criteria that the appellant believes were not properly considered or fully addressed.
4. *The remedy sought.* This can range from reversal of the Commissioner's decision on the license to changes in specific license conditions.
5. *All the matters to be contested.* The Board will limit its consideration to those matters specifically raised in the written notice of appeal.
6. *Request for hearing.* If the appellant wishes the Board to hold a public hearing on the appeal, a request for hearing must be filed as part of the notice of appeal, and it must include an offer of proof regarding the testimony and other evidence that would be presented at the hearing. The offer of proof must consist of a statement of the substance of the evidence, its relevance to the issues on appeal, and whether any witnesses would testify. The Board will hear the arguments in favor of and in opposition to a hearing on the appeal and the presentations on the merits of an appeal at a regularly scheduled meeting. If the Board decides to hold a public hearing on an appeal, that hearing will then be scheduled for a later date.
7. *New or additional evidence to be offered.* If an appellant wants to provide evidence not previously provided to DEP staff during the DEP's review of the application, the request and the proposed supplemental evidence must be submitted with the appeal. The Board may allow new or additional evidence to be considered in an appeal only under limited circumstances. The proposed supplemental evidence must be relevant and material, and (a) the person seeking to add information to the record must show due diligence in bringing the evidence to the DEP's attention at the earliest possible time in the licensing process; or (b) the evidence itself must be newly discovered and therefore unable to have been presented earlier in the process. Requirements for supplemental evidence are set forth in [Chapter 2 § 24](#).

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS IN APPEALING A DECISION TO THE BOARD

1. *Be familiar with all relevant material in the DEP record.* A license application file is public information, subject to any applicable statutory exceptions, and is made accessible by the DEP. Upon request, the DEP will make application materials available to review and photocopy during normal working hours. There may be a charge for copies or copying services.

2. *Be familiar with the regulations and laws under which the application was processed, and the procedural rules governing the appeal.* DEP staff will provide this information upon request and answer general questions regarding the appeal process.
3. *The filing of an appeal does not operate as a stay to any decision.* If a license has been granted and it has been appealed, the license normally remains in effect pending the processing of the appeal. Unless a stay of the decision is requested and granted, a licensee may proceed with a project pending the outcome of an appeal, but the licensee runs the risk of the decision being reversed or modified as a result of the appeal.

WHAT TO EXPECT ONCE YOU FILE A TIMELY APPEAL WITH THE BOARD

The Board will acknowledge receipt of an appeal, and it will provide the name of the DEP project manager assigned to the specific appeal. The notice of appeal, any materials admitted by the Board as supplementary evidence, any materials admitted in response to the appeal, relevant excerpts from the DEP's administrative record for the application, and the DEP staff's recommendation, in the form of a proposed Board Order, will be provided to Board members. The appellant, the licensee, and parties of record are notified in advance of the date set for the Board's consideration of an appeal or request for a hearing. The appellant and the licensee will have an opportunity to address the Board at the Board meeting. The Board will decide whether to hold a hearing on appeal when one is requested before deciding the merits of the appeal. The Board's decision on appeal may be to affirm all or part, affirm with conditions, order a hearing to be held as expeditiously as possible, reverse all or part of the decision of the Commissioner, or remand the matter to the Commissioner for further proceedings. The Board will notify the appellant, the licensee, and parties of record of its decision on appeal.

II. JUDICIAL APPEALS

Maine law generally allows aggrieved persons to appeal final Commissioner or Board licensing decisions to Maine's Superior Court (see [38 M.R.S. § 346\(1\)](#); 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 2; [5 M.R.S. § 11001](#); and M.R. Civ. P. 80C). A party's appeal must be filed with the Superior Court within 30 days of receipt of notice of the Board's or the Commissioner's decision. For any other person, an appeal must be filed within 40 days of the date the decision was rendered. An appeal to court of a license decision regarding an expedited wind energy development, a general permit for an offshore wind energy demonstration project, or a general permit for a tidal energy demonstration project may only be taken directly to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. See 38 M.R.S. § 346(4).

Maine's Administrative Procedure Act, DEP statutes governing a particular matter, and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure must be consulted for the substantive and procedural details applicable to judicial appeals.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions or need additional information on the appeal process, for administrative appeals contact the Board Clerk at 207-287-2811 or the Board Executive Analyst at 207-314-1458 bill.hinkel@maine.gov, or for judicial appeals contact the court clerk's office in which the appeal will be filed.

Note: This information sheet, in conjunction with a review of the statutory and regulatory provisions referred to herein, is provided to help a person to understand their rights and obligations in filing an administrative or judicial appeal. The DEP provides this information sheet for general guidance only; it is not intended for use as a legal reference. Maine law governs an appellant's rights.
